

Promotion of Spices

941. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for promoting the spices in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is promoting cultivation of major spices vigorously since VIII Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 125.00 crores. The programme is being continued in 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 30.00 crores.

Governor for Goa

942. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why a regular Governor has not been appointed for the State of Goa; and

(b) the time by which a regular Governor is proposed to be appointed to facilitate the smooth functioning of the affairs of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Under article 153 of the Constitution of India, the same person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States. The existing arrangement relating to Goa is in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

Charter of Demands Given by Kisan Sahayata Morcha

943. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a charter of demands has been given to Prime Minister on January 23, 1996 by the 'Kisan Sahayata Morcha';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Special Allocation for North East

944. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had directed different Ministries to allocate ten percent of their annual budget for the development of the States of the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the Departments that have allocated ten percent of the budget for the States of the North-East Region during 1996-97;

(c) the Departments that failed to carry out the Prime Minister's directives; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure allocation of ten percent of the budget of each Ministry for the States of the N.E. Region during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister had announced the New initiatives on 27 Oct., 96 in which inter-alia, it was indicated that all Central Ministries will earmark 10% of budget for specific programmes in N.E. States. By that time, the annual plan of various Ministries were already finalised and as such, this instruction could not be implemented in all Ministries in 1996-97.

(d) All Ministries have been advised to earmark 10% of their total outlay while preparing 1997-98 Annual Plan.

Naga Problem

945. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem, "Further talks with Naga rebels in Geneva next month" appearing in 'Times of India' dated June 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in resolving the vexed Naga problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister in a statement in both the Houses of Parliament on 25 July, 1997 informed, inter alia, that after his visit to Nagaland and other North-Eastern States, the Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with the underground elements had been reiterated and that after talks with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it has now been agreed to cease fire for 3 months with effect from 1st August, 1997 and embark upon political level discussions.

Reorganisation of Delhi and U.P

946. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the area of Uttar Pradesh proposed to be merged in Delhi State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) No such proposal for reorganisation of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh by merging any area of Uttar Pradesh in Delhi is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Infiltration

947. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of people infiltrate into the country every year;

(b) whether any annual survey is conducted or statement is prepared regarding the infiltration;

(c) whether any measures has been taken to reduce the burden due to arrival of infiltrators on the increasing population of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) In view of the long land borders with neighbouring countries and due to various pull and push factors, infiltration into the country is an on-going problem. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of infiltrators because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities. A regular review is undertaken to monitor the situation on an on-going basis.

(c) and (d) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to detect and deport illegal migrants who manage to come into India. These include, inter alia, creation of special posts under PIF/MTF Schemes in States on Indo-Bangladesh borders, amendment of IMDT Act in 1988 and IMDT Rules in 1997 to facilitate detection and deportation of illegal migrants in Assam, developing of an understanding with Bangladesh for handing over of illegal migrants etc. The progress of action taken is reviewed at various levels from time to time.

[*English*]

Robberies in Kerala Express

948. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of robberies in the Kerala Express during the last one year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such robberies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (G.R.P) which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information relating to train-wise robberies is not maintained by the Central Government.

Conference of Governors

949. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two days Conference of Governors, Chief Ministers and other national political parties was held in June, 1997 at New Delhi;